

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method comprising:

2 in a network, collecting data about a packet passing from
3 a source system to a destination system;

4 generating a markup language graphical file based on the
5 collected data; and

6 displaying the markup language graphics file.

1 2. The method of claim 1 in which collecting comprises:

2 tracing routes from the source system to the destination
3 system; and

4 for each of the routes, storing a node identification, a
5 hop time, and a travel time from the source system to an
6 intermediate node.

1 3. The method of claim 2 in which the node

2 identification comprises a node name.

1 4. The method of claim 2 in which the node

2 identification comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) address.

1 5. The method of claim 2 in which generating comprises:

2 determining a number of nodes in each of the routes;
3 assigning coordinates to each of the systems in each of
4 the routes; and

5 storing the coordinates and associated node
6 identification, hop time, and travel time from source system
7 to each of the systems in each of the routes in the markup
8 language file.

1 6. The method of claim 5 in which the markup language
2 comprises Hypertext Markup Language (HTML).

1 7. The method of claim 5 in which the markup language
2 comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML).

1 8. The method of claim 5 in which each of the systems
2 on each of the routes is positioned on an imaginary line
3 emanating from a center of a geometric structure.

1 9. The method of claim 8 in which the geometric
2 structure comprises a circle.

1 10. The method of claim 8 in which the geometric
2 structure comprises a square.

1 11. The method of claim 1 in which displaying comprises
2 showing an image represented by the markup language graphics
3 file on browser software.

1 12. The method of claim 11 in which the image includes
2 geometric shapes representing nodes in each route.

1 13. The method of claim 12 in which a color of the
2 displayed shapes represents a network.

1 14. The method of claim 12 in which a color of the
2 displayed shapes represents a potential timing problem.

1 15. The method of claim 12 further comprising displaying
2 a node identification and route timing data when an element of
3 the displayed file is highlighted by a user.

1 16. The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying
2 a time travel histogram of a highlighted displayed file.

1 17. A method comprising:
2 in a network, tracing routes from a source system to the
3 destination systems;
4 for each of the routes, storing data representing a node
5 identification, a hop time, and a travel time from the source
6 system to an intermediate node;
7 generating an interactive markup language graphics file
8 for the data; and
9 displaying the interactive markup language graphics file.

1 18. The method of claim 17 in which generating
2 comprises:
3 determining a number of systems in each of the routes;

4 assigning coordinates to each of the systems in each of
5 the routes; and

6 storing the coordinates and associated node
7 identification, hop time, and travel time from source system
8 to each of the systems in each of the routes in the markup
9 language file.

1 19. The method of claim 17 in which displaying comprises
2 viewing an image represented by the markup language graphics
3 file on browser software.

1 20. The method of claim 19 in which the image includes
2 geometric shapes representing systems in each route.

1 21. The method of claim 20 in which a color of the
2 geometric shapes represents a network.

1 22. The method of claim 20 in which a color of the
2 geometric shapes represents a potential timing problem.

1 23. The method of claim 19 further comprising displaying
2 a node identification and route timing data when any of the
3 geometric shapes is highlighted by a cursor on an input/output
4 device.

1 24. The method of claim 19 further comprising displaying
2 a time travel histogram of the highlighted geometric shape.

1 25. The method of claim 17 in which the data is stored
2 in a remote computer system.

1 26. The method of claim 17 in which the interactive
2 markup language graphics file is displayed on a remote system.

1 27. A computer program stored on a computer readable-
2 medium, the computer program comprising instructions that
3 cause a computer to:

4 collect data in a network from a source system to
5 destination systems;

6 generate a markup language graphics file for the
7 collected data; and

8 display the markup language graphics file.

1 28. A computer program stored on a computer readable-
2 medium, the computer program comprising instructions that
3 cause a computer to:

4 periodically trace network routes from a source system to
5 the destination systems;

6 for each of the routes, store data representing a node
7 identification, a hop time, and a travel time from the source
8 system to an intermediate node;

9 generate an interactive markup language graphics file for
10 the data; and

11 display the interactive markup language graphics file.